

HENRY DARGER -

"THE VIVIAN

GIRLS

IN CHICAGO"

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VOLUME TWELVE

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used the reflector and was surprised to discover there were no demons in there either. This discovery however did not cause them to be overconfident for they knew demons are foxy and very deicing besides treacherous.

And demons could flee from one or two places and crowd in another, and come back when you're off guard.

With the P also now drawn out into the hall the reflector was again used but there were no demons in the all either.

all the masses were already in progress, the "Jewels of the Madonna" had been sung twice by Bernad and his sisters and preparations made to prevent the spirits from returning.

Yet where did they go? Was this a trick on the part of the demons?

Angeline tested the Edison in the music room.

It worked normally playing as it should. Outside of that a strange hush had come over the whole floor. While they were pondering over the greatly desired

situation the boy and girls came and Violet explained the Octopus's plans. They readily agreed to it. Then Violet explained what had occurred.

"I believe the demons have been driven from this second floor and fled to their companions either on the top or the first floor" declared Jennie Turner said decidedly. "They are unafraid, but more desperate. The main problem is whether they will come back if the Paloo is moved down to the first floor

or up to the third. are the spirits driven out of the suit of mail images?

"The images being solid objects the reflector didn't reveal that to us" said Jennie Vroman. "No one dares go near them."

"I'll take a chance, and if anything happens the rest of you could rescue me," declared Margerie Masters.

"No you don't" Violet put in sternly. "I am possessed by angels and you are not yet. I don't dare do it. No one goes near those suits of mail unless

it can be proven some way there's no demons in them. The suits of mail shields them from the effects of the talos as they're not exposed. They were the most dangerous objects in the building if they are not still."

"But what could those things do?" asked Margerie.

"They'd either hit you with those terrible weapons, or grab you up by the neck and strangle you" answered Joyce. "If any one is caught by their throat rescue is im-

possible except my miracle.

But unwarily little Margaret Masters came out of a side room and walked close to the first image of a knight.

She passed it and came to the second.

The others stood horror stricken unable to utter a sound expecting her to be struck down or lifted up and strangled, but nothing at all happened.

She walked closer to the third image dangerously close, but not one

made the slightest supernatural movement.

When she reached directly under the last one, there were thirty of them, she swung around and came softly towards her sister and friends.

Evidently the images also were free of evil spirits, nothing on the second floor hall being possessed any more.

But the little Virgins met a new surprise just the same. It was evident the spirits turned the stairs leading from the

second to the first up side down, and the same with those leading to the third seeking to trap them.

But the demons seemed to have forgotten that at the rear of the building was a cylinder coring tower fire escape and two of the little Virians went down this, were out in the grounds in a hurry and got back in by the main entrance.

Violet placed her foot on the stairs muttered the most

important prayer, and both flight of stairs righted themselves.

Evans and the others brought the Paloo down in a hurry. Near the entrance stood the awful foreboding hall tree.

"Is that thing really material, or a demon transformed?" whispered the Octopus.

"I don't know" said Violet "But I believe that is what killed Paulina, as they say she was near it when it attacked her."

"I'd like to direct the Paloo at it first" Marjorie was going

to approach it but the Octopus held her back. The Paloo was placed into position and prepared for working. But this time the reflector showed no demons in the hall.

"Perhaps they are gone" thought Violet; "I wonder why? I'm sure we are not winning a victory so easy as all this"

She reversed the reflector to take in the whole hall but nothing could be seen. She came down from the platform and spoke of the

matter to the Octopus. "I don't believe they're gone" he said. "They may be deceiving you by rendering themselves invisible so you can't see them."

"No that couldn't be" she answered. "The reflector reveals them no matter how invisible they try to render themselves"

Violet herself was not afraid of the hall tree though she knew it was to be treated as a strange dangerous enemy, so holding open a container of Holy Water she advanced

towards it saying as she went:

"I'm not afraid of you whatever evil spirit you are and I think you'll be sorry pretty soon that you might have been the one that caused Paulina's death. You can't harm me, but I would destroy you if I could, but I'm going to 'make' you go at all costs."

Then to the surprise of every one a strange unearthly laugh seemed to come from the hall tree that was not nice to hear and the upper part

of it warred. Violet was half way across the room when suddenly a wall of glass rose mysteriously before her and stopped her progress.

I thought the glass she could see a face resembling a witch's form in the wall across from the hall tree and it sneered at her because she appeared a weak little girl, and this angered her.

Although the glass wall obliged her to halt she instantly drew one of her revolvers and fired

at it point blank but with no result. Then to the surprise of all the hall tree changed to the form of the well often described half hedious woman, and half bu bird. It was of enormous size twice taller than even Jack Evans and this feat the banshee had miraculously accomplished to the surprise and honor of all.

And yet despite the transformation it was observed that the hall tree rose with it.

Whatever the

creature was, it was frightfully enraged at the success of the little girls in the Library and second floor hall.

He or his followers had known nothing of the attempt of the little Virriams to progress down here untill they came.

The fierce creature knew however that every fiend down here was likely to be conquered too unless he made a fierce fight, or done to them what had been done to Paulinia, so he spread his huge feathery wings, and

rose in the air with
savage unearthly howls,
and shrieks, flying
directly towards the little
girls.

The wall of glass
had disappeared the
heinous transformation
took place.

Violet or her sisters
had not expected any
such transformations
as this and in her
excitement, she had
forgotten to throw the
Holy Water.

Some of her sisters
started towards the
Balloon Holy Water
sprayer to shower
the frightful and

dangerous phenomena.

The size of the creature
made his wing fastened
arms dangerous like
wire his big claws.
but Violet and her sisters
were not afraid when
it came darting towards
them with its lower
jaws outstretched
and its long fingered
hands open to grab
any one of the little
girls it came to first.

At the same time
every suit of mail
image started various
motions, and dances,
while some fought
with each other.

The little girls felt sure

that the angels that possessed them would protect them from all harm.

But Jack Evans did not know that fact and became alarmed at their seeming danger.

So he gave a sudden leap, and leaped full upon the back of the great phenomenon.

Then began a desperate struggle. The creature appeared as strong as Jack Evans, and in size it was more than twice as big as Evans, but he at the first

leap bore the creature to the floor, but it got free and wrestled with Evans, who tripped and fell, and then it beat him down with its great wings whenever he attempted to rise.

Evans however was too tough and strong to be easily whipped or injured by any demon and he managed to get in a blow that sent the baroness sailing across the hall.

At that critical moment Maryorie Masters passed close to the

enraged spirit and hurled Holy water full in its face. The demon shivered and howled and he now realized it was hopeless to oppose the power of the little girls and knew that his only escape lay in instant action. If he must avoid more Holy water.

So he quickly flew towards the hall tree. Our friends did not know of course what the banshee was about to do.

They saw it tremble an instant

and then disappear the hall tree with it. and although they waited expectantly for some minutes for the spirit to show itself again it did not come back.

"Seems to me" said the Octopus in a cheerful voice "that we have conquered the wicked banshee more quickly than we expected to."

"Don't say 'we,'" Marjorie did it" cried Violet Hurnah for "Marjorie"

"Well" remarked the Octopus to Marjorie "your efforts has certainly saved us a

a lot of trouble, and we must all thank Jack Evans too, for making such a good fight. The strange double shaped phenomenon had a fiend's evil disposition in it and that made the monotonous banshee dangerous."

Evans was looking sad because the bird-like talons had torn his new clothes but he bowed with much dignity, at this well deserved praise.

at this moment a queer thing happened which was unexpected and apparently out of

the ordinary as it didn't happen to this all before, and they all thought it couldn't.

The floor of the great long broad hall on which they stood suddenly began to tip.

Before it had been flat and level but now it became a slant and with a strange nerve-racking grunting noise, it shivered like an earthquake then the slant going from one end of the hall to the other grew steeper and steeper untill none of the party could manage to stand upon

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it. As it continued they all slowly slid down the length of the floor some beneath or between the knightly images, which remained in their position being fastened to the floor, the east end of the hall now being under them, and then after a moments stopping it began again its gradual tip lengthwise, but much more faster, and it became evident that the whole vast hall, like the dome room had done was slowly turning upside down but in a lengthwise not,

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sideways motion. As said before only the suits of mail images kept in place remaining in their own position, but the picture swung upside down or slide off, as well as the window curtains.

They continued to slide down the badly tilting floor but as the hall continued to tilt they slid down to the end wall and found themselves at the end wall.

But the motion continued slowly making them slide down the wall towards the ceiling some bumping

against one of the immense chandeliers which like everything else was now upside down.

The lengthwise turning movement now stopped and the extensive hall became stationary though there were now strange unaccountable noises and the chandeliers (at) acted so queerly that our friends wisely avoided them.

Looking up at the floor they saw the apparition suspended in the air at the very top, which had once been the floor.

"Ah" said the creature,

grinning down at them, "the way to conquer is to act and he who acts promptly is sure to win."

This makes a very good prison from which I am sure you cannot escape. We could have turned this hall upside down all of a sudden but by the authorities of Heaven we are not allowed to injure or kill you little girls or your brother. But if one of you who has the power to do it rights the hall again it'll return to its former position all of a sudden and

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it'll kill you all. Please remember if the chandeliers get you by the throat — and also please amuse yourselves in any way you like but I must beg you to excuse me as I have business in another part of this place with my companions.

Saying this he made the double hex sign at them, bowed his foul head with mock politeness and disappeared from view and oh 'Pheew' what an awful smell he left.

It was a good thing the suit of mail images

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was fastened to the floor or some of them would have fallen down on their heads.

"Well I declare" said Jennie "we must peg one for the demon for he has trapped us very, very cleverly."

"It's rather crowded at this part of the hall" explained Violet "because the movement of the hall threw us down here at the east end. But if we spread out and keep as quiet as possible we could think what is best to be done. But we must avoid these crazy

chandeliers."

"Dear dear," wailed Margaret Masters. "I wish I had taken my crucifix along."

"If I only had the power of St Michael I'd show the fiends something" sighed the Octopus.

"Don't you s'pose he could get us out of this trap?" asked Margaret anxiously.

"Well we will have to try ourselves with God's help" laughed Jore. "Violet dear do you think you could risk the prayer that will return

the hall to its former place."

"If the demon tells the truth I wouldn't dare" she said.

But the Octopus took the suggestion seriously and so did Evans. They talked it over but at first they could find no way to get out.

At the east end of the hall there were no windows or doorway.

The entrance to the west was jammed because of the phenomena and if you could get out the west end windows you had the dangerous

Elm tree to face.

But the little girls thought they could plan a way to get out without risking the tree.

They talked this over and soon planned an attempt to reach one of the side windows high up that faced the south where they hoped to get out.

First Evans stood up against the wall which was high and braced his foot on the stem of a small but harmless cham-
delier then the Octopus climbed over him and braced

against the wall with his feet on Evans shoulder the priest came next but when Father Carney got on his shoulders the very wall did a very queer thing that upset them all.

Down they came tumbling in a heap upon the little girl standing near, and although no one was much hurt it was a bad mix-up, and Evans who was at the bottom almost lost his temper before he could get to his feet again. And he positively refused to try what

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he called the pyramid
act again, and as the
Octopus was now commen-
ced they could not reach
the window in that
manner the attempt
was abandoned.

"But something must
be done" said the
Octopus and then he
turned to Violet and
asked:

"Cannot the angels
who possess you little
girls help us escape
from this crazy
hall?"

"The powers of our
angels are limited"
was the reply. "They,
or even I and

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my sisters can do
only what our Dear
Blessed Lord gives us
power to do, but noth-
ing else. I could try
to turn the hall back
into place if you like
but its a grave chance
if that apparition tells
the truth - you however
are a wizard at fight-
ing devils and other evil
spirits, and a wizard should
be able to do anything
I'm sure!"

"You little girls forget
that I have not the
means or tools and a
wizard without tools
is as helpless as a
carpenter without a

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hammer or saw.
 "Don't give up" pleaded
 Maryorie "cause
 if we can't get out
 of this queer prison
 we will all die of
 thirst or starvation"

"Don't talk of such
 dreadful events," said
 her sister "We came
 here to drive out
 the wicked banshees
 didn't we?"

"Yes for the sake
 of Mr. Seeman"
 said Violet and
 her sisters together
 "and here we are
 captured by the
 banshees and the
 only way to get

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out is up there on
 plain sight" wailed
 little Margaret wip-
 ing her eyes on her
 hand her Chief.

"Hush" called Evans
 with a loud deep growl
 "Give the Octopus time
 to think."

"He has plenty of
 time" said Father
 Carney. "What he needs
 is to find the my-
 stery of this"

After all it was
 Violet who came to
 their rescue and the
 ability to save them
 was almost as much
 a surprise to the
 little girl, as it was

to her sisters and friends. She had been secretly testing the powerful intercessions of that powerful prayer given her and wisely and righteously experimenting with it in various ways, even since she started on their eventful adventure. At different times

At different days or hours she had stolen away from the others of her party and in solitude had tried to find out what St Michael would do and would not do.

But she and her sisters are so highly favored by God, she discovered that prayer would do anything, but she also learned something about the prayer which even her sisters and friends did not suspect she knew.

For one thing she had remembered that when St Michael appeared and clasped her lovingly in his arms, he had told her what he could do to help her, in her sore needs, and by thinking hard she had finally recalled the

way in which such favors would be granted. Better than this however was the discovery that St Michael would grant her three wishes a day.

All she need do was close her right eye wiggle her left finger, make the sign of the cross, say the "Our Father, Hail Mary, the Apostles Creed, and the Acts of Love, Hope, Faith, and then draw a long deep breath and make her wish.

Yesterday she had wished for the strong inspiration or templat-
ion to do a very Holy

thing for God, and instantly got the inspiration and done it. So day she had saved her daily wish in case she might need it in an emergency and the time had now come when she must use the wish to enable her to escape with her sisters and friends from the hall prison in which the evil spirit had caught them.

So without telling them what she intended to do for she had only used the wish once and could not be too certain how powerfully the prayer

might effect the famous archangel, Violet closed her right eye, made the sign of the cross, said the prayers as devotedly as was in her power and wiggled her little left finger on left hand, and drew a long breath, and wished with all her might and faith.

The next moment the hall began to revolve again, but this time sideways, not lengthwise as before, but much more slowly than the other time, and by degrees

they all slid to the side wall, and down the wall to the floor, all but Margaret who was so astonished if not bewildered that she clung to a chandelier that she had grasped.

When the long hall was in its proper position again, and the others stood firmly upon the floor of it.

They looked far up to the ceiling, and saw the little girl swinging from the chandelier.

Fortunately for her she had not grasped any of the possessed

ones or she would have been choked to death or thrown violently down the length of the hall.

"Good gracious!" gasped Angeline. "How ever will you get down?"

"Won't the hall keep turning?" asked Margaret.

"I hope not, I believe it has stopped for good," said Violet.

"I hem put some mattresses under meath" she cried.

"I bury my arms are charming" they did."

"Now stand from under so no one

will get hurt" shouted Maryone, and as soon as they had obeyed this request she let go the chandeliers and came tumbling down heels over head and twisting and turning in a very exciting manner.

Plump, she fell on the thick soft mattresses and rose to her feet as they ran to her.

Suddenly as they reached her there arose a most harsh clamor of sound not only in the hall but throughout the building from first to

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third floor that swelled and echoed on every side until they were nearly deafened by the racket and had to put their fingers to their ears to keep the noise out.

It changed in sound like the firing of a thousand big cannon in the building then it changed to the rolling as of mighty thunder then it gradually subsided like the roar of countless breakers on a rugged seashore then renewing again to a terrific discord like the dread-

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ful sound in a boiler factory. They all stood in the middle of the hall but as the frightful noise changing to that of the terrific Grand Church Organ Crash did no harm they started for one of the rooms into which their Paloo had rolled during the upside down frank of the hall.

The Paloo was then pushed out while gradually the awful noise after changing to a rattling thundering clatter like lead pipes pounding against sheets of iron and tin

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gradually subsided followed by an unusual stillness. Then to their surprise and disgust came a phenomenon they did not expect.

It was the coming of a horrid odor that was very unusual.

Did you ever find a dead rat full of foul smelling maggots and badly decayed in a small closed room? Well I did. And did you ever pour strong lye upon it? I did and wow what a reek.

Well if you want the most horrid

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smell of your lifetime do so, and get skunked at the same time, but I advise you don't try it.

Well that was the kind of smell that pervaded the hall, coming like a strange pink vapor cloud enveloping them all.

To avoid the smell they all raced up the steps to the 2nd floor but the fumes followed after them spreading throughout the building into every room even the attic accompanied

by a mighty din
as if in every room
and hall an enormous
crowd of men
and women were quar-
reling at the highest
pitch of their voices.

The pungent smell
grew so strong, and
the noise so unbear-
able that the whole
party were routed
into the basement,
where both also
followed them.

They even had
to flee from the
basement into the
open grounds outside
before they could escape
the lopest odor and in

their excitement they
ran too close to the big
dangerous elm tree which
nearly had them all.

Its branches acted
very crazy as they
escaped, and one branch
bending downward
struck the Octopus
on the back like the
blow of a whip send-
ing him flying
most disgracefully
along the ground the
same branch at
the same time catch-
ing Jennie Violet
and Angelina on the
back of their heads
knocking them un-
conscious. The Octopus

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who was not injured had a difficult time to rescue them. He though scared he was almost caught by some of the branches as he managed to pull the unconscious little girls to safety.

Some of the smaller branches switched him like an angry parent does a very naughty boy but he got away and carried them out of reach as the nest retreated a safe distance.

"I sometimes really believe if we only

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could conquer the evil condition of that tree we will then have solved the problem" exclaimed the Octopus. "Maybe that tree is the root of all this trouble."

How? asked Father Carney. "I have the Puloo worked against it."

When the three little girls were revived and found not injured that subject was suggested to them and their sisters.

"We tried that before you came" said Angeline. "It has no effect upon it whatever. It only

works inside of rooms
not against solid ob-
jects"

How long will this
crazy gas attack continue?
asked the Octopus.

"Its hard to tell" said
Catherine "But we could
outwit them if we only
had our gas masks"

"Gas masks"?

"Yes"

"What are those? never
heard of them before."

"Something you put
over your face to keep
out gas"

"To keep out gas?"

"Yes"

"What are they like?"

"They shape like

helmets, but are very
ugly to look at, have
something connecting
for the nose and mouth
that looks like an ele-
phant's trunk. We and
all people who live
in the territory use
them so as not to breathe
in Volcanic gas"

"Oh never yet saw any
thing like this in our
Country. (that word was
no one) And you have
none here?"

"We have but they'll
only fit me & emrod
and my sisters? they
are too small for you
or the rest."

"Curses on the luck

and the demons too" muttered the Octopus under his breath but the little girls heard.

"Cursing demons won't help us any" declared Jennie seriously "What we really got to do is to act. But you said about the root of all this trouble may be in the tree. I thought the second floor library was."

"So did I" answered the Octopus. "Golly I remember said she was when we visited her yesterday in the hospital where she's staying for

naughty sake."

"Could that be possible? Ah shaw, that's not so. The most difficult of all propositions really is that Elm tree. We found that out by experience."

Violet suddenly thought of that particular wish but then she remembered that had failed in the case so far of expelling the demons.

And she also remembered that had not been promised. The Octopus's plan about every mass in the rooms and children

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too receiving Holy Communion at every Mass had been violently repulsed by the demons who produced overthrowing phenomena.

I thought it was very strange to think of there was one thing about the Elm tree that struck them as decidedly queer and horrid.

If any little girls and only them dared stand close to it long but not near enough to be caught, a phenomenon would occur

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that would first totally derude them, and then send a dangerous fire phenomenon at them.

So they had wisely moved off to a more safe distance.

To find out whether the building was clear of gas Perrod took the chance of going in.

He found the gas gone but what he saw astonished and greatly embarrassed him. A crowd of naked children all girls were in the hall. He called to his sister excitedly

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who went in hurriedly but it was no phenomena of phantom children. Their girl scouts had gone into the building, and not intending to injure them in any other way, the demons, by a vanishing phenomena made their clothes mysteriously disappear.

They dared not go out as around the men and the priests were in the grounds outside.

At the sight being desirous to go to their help Violet started to enter the for-

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bidden hall but just before she crossed the threshold strong unseen hands reached out at her and pushed her away.

But she and her sisters became defiant and desperately decided to make a forced entrance.

It was agreed that Angeline and Jennie should go in first.

They had no difficulty in passing under the arch of the entrance way.

They proceeded hopefully but Catherine following them

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looked carefully at the suits of mail and felt discouraged since they were acting up.

Then her other sisters seeing how easily the test of the entrance arch had been met, decided to go too, but those hidden hands seized Catherine by the neck strangling her until her tongue protruded and when she struggled in that situation other unseen hands seized her by the hair and dragged her out but letting her

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be strangled until she was senseless.

The unseen hands repelled Jennie and Angelina too, but without strungling or hair pulling.

Daisy managed to get at least one step further in there than her sisters, but her success proved nothing but similiar strangulation and throwing out.

Despite this they afterwards all died in a body, and three times they were all strangled to almost senselessness and thrown out, but they kept on

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undiscouraged and then they finally by sheer dint of courage won out. The naked child scouts were led upstairs to the second floor which now alone was free of the demons.

Had the little girls even known that if the altar in the library was ever moved off the floor to the ~~attic~~ attic again (which I'm sorry to say is now possessed) the demons would return. But they had no intention of doing so.

The situation was a difficult one,

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about these child scouts as there was no way to get them any clothes and if one, only one of the little Virians or any one else left the building the demons would gain ground.

You kids will have to remain naked in here until some one can get clothes - you should not have entered here without our knowing it then the demons would not have done this to you - you remain in the attic for a while. And there are forty

eight of you. If there are any one of you who can wear the clothes of one of us we will lend you them but one of you will have to face the difficulty of finding out and marking down the various sizes each wears. I'll write down the request for warding the money and send one of you who cannot speak English so that the clerk will not be able to question you. Then the rest of you hike up to the attic and

remain there until you receive your new clothes. Then I have some plan for you?"

One of the girlscoouts was the size of Genie so she gave her some of her clothes and then while she took the last preparatory of going out to get the goods the rest slowly flocked to the attic.

Then as the girlscoouts went out by the rear way Violet said to the Octopus as Webber George went upstairs, she rejoining the demon fighter outside! -

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"I believe the old demons have tricked us. They have truly been driven from the second floor but they still occupy the third and first floors, and also the grounds. We've got the stations of the Cross completed in the grounds but they only keep the powers of darkness from their own territory and don't help any other part. But this tree-" she pointed to the Elm tree as she spoke "I believe is the main source of all the trouble. Though we didn't say

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anything before, we did try many experiments with it and got defeated at every turn. We thought it was a hollow tree like the one at Mc Lalls Run but it is not. It acts the same way but is far more dangerous - I and my sisters believe this tree is put in this condition by the demons to make it keep every person wandering in from entering the building through the main entrance.

Other trees do not seem to be so bad though sixteen others are also possessed. We

had hoped to drive the fiends from this particular tree but to no avail."

"Why don't you destroy it?" asked the Octopus. Violet giggled, the others smiled grimly.

"It can't be done" she said. "The demons won't let you, and besides the main problem is that Mr. Seseeman objects. But if we could get him to consent, the demons will stop you. Even Nutio Glyserene won't go off if you throw it, as the demons seem to have a power to prevent it from exploding.

and for any other purpose it is extremely dangerous to approach near the tree."

At that moment there came to her a charged loud call from Father Carney followed by a strange sound apparently from the roof.

"Something happened in the attic" he cried. "I heard a funny crunching bumping noise and a lot of screams."

At that same instant Webber George who was always with them came running up.

"The girl scouts are trapped in some pho-morrana in the attic"

he shouted Violet and her sisters and even all the others raced into the building and up the three flights of stairs which seemed to slowly follow them. They reached the third floor nevertheless and were able to get into the attic despite the trouble, but to their surprise the whole interior was bottom up and the child scout all bewildered and excited. The men and boys had remained down below.

"Well this is the limit" exclaimed Violet

and her sisters as one.

The demons confound them have tricked us added Jennie - "Since the removal of that altar they now possess the attic. All of you girls get down to the second floor into the library where its safe. There are no demons there."

They obeyed hastily for fear of worse crazy phenomena.

It was more than an hour before the girl scout came back with a kiddie cart racer loaded with clothes which all the thirty nine soon put on with

great relief. Pennod had said several times to his sisters in a warning tone:

"You'd better look out the demons and other evil spirits don't, don't do that trick on you, and before us boys and men too, or to all of us at once. What they did to the girls' coats they could and would do to you girls, and us too at the same time."

This got poor Violet and her sisters & others too, and the gloomy 'out look made

them dread to leave the library.

In the meantime there was something new which Violet and her sisters did not know of, and which they and the Octopus would give anything to know.

There was a boy of about ten years old, living at 1406 Webster Ave, who gifted by Heaven could truly show the little girls how to make the evil spirits wish they had never come to Mr. Sesemann house.

His father, a very Holy Man, had been a good one at that too but

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he had gone to his reward, and the boy had only his mother and sister.

Though only ten, he was the size of a fourteen year old, powerfully built and unusually a bright prodigy at many things.

As he never bothered to read news or any paper or magazine he never knew of the events in Mr Sese man's house at all.

Never heard any conversation and his mother had from being too busy had not told him

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"Mother dear" he said this very day the girl-nights were rendered naked "I saw and read a very peculiar sign on the gate of a big building belonging to a Mr George Adams Sese man. I could not understand it and read it three times and took a look at the building and grounds from outside. I was passing by to day with his and a boy friend and I wrote it down on a piece of paper. It seems that magnificent house has details."

His mother glanced

at the paper and gasped. Recovering herself she said:

"Come my boy to the living room and I'll tell you all about it"

and she did telling him all that the news papers said, and giving him a magazine full of the details which she had reserved and relating everything she had heard from the neighbors.

She didn't however tell about little Paulina Flammigan the orphan kid or the seven hobos,

and the magazine didn't relate that either or show the pictures of the little virgins.

"I know what?" said his eight year old sister Nancy "I'll get Father's book on possessed people and houses. That may tell the mystery why the wicked evil spirit fool and out-wit those good little girls and their brave helpers."

It took her about five minutes to find it, but she returned with it, quite a large volume in a red cover.

"It was not where I thought it was but I got it" she said, and she gingerly laid it on the boy's lap.

He turned the pages eagerly but carefully and after some length of time came to the pages written of European houses troubled, and how they were promptly cleared and for good but only by priests, bishops, and saints, persons.

These places had the symptoms of Resemman house, some for thirty or

forty years some not so severe or stubborn, others making Resemman's house a child's play in comparison.

He read and studied every one, just as he was finishing the last one, his sister said:

"I have a magazine here that tells more about those little Virian girls and shows a picture of them. I believe they're the prettiest kids ever born, and one of them is a twin to their brother."

He glanced at the picture and then he

laughed scornfully.

"Whats the matter?" asked his sister feeling slightly offended. "Dont you think so?"

"I think so?" he giggled "Those aint the Virrian kids. No kid is that pretty. Somebody painted pictures of angels and"

"No no those are the little Virrians" said his mother "that can easily be proved"

Her son was not an unreasonable boy and thinking deeply for a moment he finally said:

"Well if they are them, then there's

something from Heaven about them. I've heard a lot about those little girls before this Seraman affair and they certainly are good kids. They deserve my help, and they'll certainly get it." Then he laughed again.

"Ha Ha" he giggled "I think of it, a flock of devils being licked and driven out of a big house like that by little girls. That never did happen before but wont it be funny if it did, and I'll see that it does

10368.

happen. Ha Ha little girls kicking out devils. wont the devils be mad. ha ha ha".

"But" said nancy the credit would be yours".

"Not the way I'd plan it. I hate them the stinking hellish rats and would love to let the world know who made history by licking them which never happened before."

"Why do you hate the little girls and call them rats?" asked his sister sadly.

"Not the little

10369

girls, the devils, sis. And it will be a lot of fun to see them work on the devils. And and I'll see that they do."

"They would show their everlasting gratitude."

All I want for reward is their success. If I fail I am not worthy of them."

"But you wont" said nancy.

"I know it" said her brother truthfully. "I know how to work this business and those poor little girls and their good

10370

brother dont, I suppose
from my size they ll
think I'm older than
I am."

He looked at the
5 o'clock.

"I'll start on my way
now for that crazy
place. I know how to
get there"

"Can I come along?"
George dear?"

"Yes for you are to
be my assistant. The
devils are afraid of
you too!"

Then mother helped
them on with their
coats and they were
soon riding down
Halsted, towards

10371

North Ave. Then they
took a north Ave car
west to Virginia Ave, went
to Jackson Ave by
Bus to Jackson Boul.
and down that latter
west ward as far as
the chauffer would
dare to drive.

When after some
half hour's walk
towards the East, they
stood before the gate,
his sister said:

"The sign reads
that no one must
enter saying those
that do take their
own risk."

"But its only made
out by these little

Virrian girls and
backed by Detective
Burns "Solid George"
don't see we can't enter
for the demons can't
harm us. Not with
what we got with us
in the patches any-
how"

"But wouldn't we
do wrong against the
law to enter?" asked
his sister.

"No, but if we are
persons whom the
devils can do harm
to we'd be taking
an awful chance,"
said her brother.

"But I'm sure the
crazy things won't

touch us."

They cautiously lifted
the latchet, entered
and went hastily down
the main path. Near
the entrance of the
building the boy said
pointing:—

"Here's that crazy Elm
I heard about. I look
out for it."

They approached the
tree and looked it
over very carefully. It
was by now in nearly
full leaf and despite
the dangerous thing
it was appeared a very
beautiful tree.

"I'm going to work
on that tree and see

10374

"If I can drive the evil spirits from it" he said, "If I don't succeed in that then the source of the trouble is in the house."

He opened his suit case and soon set it up. It was something like a tripod with a small basin on top.

Alongside he put up a tall crucifix. Then from a box he produced some pinkish powder which he poured, a spoonful or more into the basin. Then he set it afire so that the smoke went towards